

Natural Resources Committee 3/13/19  
Director Eichinger



## Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The DNR helps take care of the state's natural and cultural resources so that residents and visitors can use and enjoy them for years to come. Our work ensures plentiful, safe outdoor recreation opportunities and healthy fish and wildlife populations, while supporting industries that provide many jobs and contribute billions of dollars to Michigan's economy.



### Parks and recreation

- Michigan's 103 diverse state parks host more than 28 million visitors and more than 1 million camping nights a year.
- More than 30 percent of Michigan-registered vehicles access state parks with a Recreation Passport, with proceeds supporting the state parks and providing grants to local parks.
- The DNR offers more than 1,300 state-sponsored boating access sites and 82 state-sponsored harbors along the Great Lakes.
- Michigan ranks third in the nation for its number of registered boats, at just over 900,000. The boating industry helps fuel the state's economy, with a \$7 billion impact annually.
- Paddle sports are the fastest-growing outdoor activity. More than 30 percent of Michigan residents who participate in outdoor activities take part in canoeing, kayaking or stand-up paddle boarding.

### Law enforcement

- Conservation officers annually make contact with more than 400,000 people, delivering education and safety tips and general law enforcement services, ensuring people are responsibly enjoying Michigan's natural resources.
- COs, located in every county of the state and a critical part of the rural law enforcement partnership, also are first responders who use a range of tools and equipment that help them save numerous lives every year.
- New technology has allowed people to text tips and complaints to the Report All Poaching hotline (800-292-7800), resulting in over 7,000 direct criminal complaints annually.
- The DNR's law enforcement communication center receives more than 36,000 total calls for service from the public each year.





## Education

- The DNR manages Michigan's hunter education program, training and overseeing a network of 3,800 volunteer instructors, and coordinates safety education programs for boaters, snowmobile and ORV riders.
- Each year more than 17,000 students are certified for hunter safety and nearly 20,000 students are certified for boater safety, along with more than 7,000 students for ORV safety and snowmobile safety combined.
- More than 475,000 people come through one of the 10 DNR visitor centers around the state, and almost 200,000 people participate in our hands-on nature education programs at state parks and schools, in a given year.
- Roughly 1,300 teachers and educators annually participate in DNR-sponsored professional development programs.
- More than 90,000 people visit the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit – where visitors can learn about outdoor recreation and how the DNR manages natural resources through hands-on activities, exhibits and simulators – each year. The OAC also hosts thousands of students with more than 400 field trips annually.



## Fishing

- Michigan boasts more than 150 fish species, a big reason we rank fifth in the nation for fishing participation, and second (behind only Florida) for attracting out-of-state anglers.
- Fishing annually contributes more than \$2 billion to the state's economy, making Michigan one of the top three states in the nation for fishing-related expenditures.
- Our six state fish hatcheries annually produce more than 25 million fish for stocking in more than 1,000 locations across both peninsulas. Forty percent of all recreational fishing in Michigan depends on stocked fish.
- Almost a quarter of Michigan's state-record fish have been caught in the last decade, evidence that the state is working hard to sustain and grow healthy fish populations.
- Excise taxes paid by anglers contribute over \$11 million a year in federal funds to fish and aquatic habitat conservation in Michigan.

## Hunting and wildlife

- The DNR helps conserve 400 species of animals, including the birds and mammals that sustain Michigan's proud hunting heritage and watchable wildlife opportunities.
- Surveys show that 90 percent of Michigan residents support keeping wildlife healthy.
- Michigan ranks third in the nation for hunter participation. Hunting-related expenditures contribute more than \$8.9 billion to the state's economy and more than \$40 million in annual license sales that pay for wildlife and habitat conservation.
- Wildlife watching contributes more than \$1 billion to Michigan's economy annually. More than 60 percent of Michigan residents say they are actively involved in viewing and photographing wildlife.
- Hunters and wildlife watchers can explore seven managed waterfowl areas, 19 grouse management sites (known as GEMS) that allow walk-in hunting, and more than 180 state game and wildlife areas.



## Public lands and waters

- Michigan offers more than 10 million acres (including 4.6 million acres managed by the DNR) of land open to the public for hunting, and more bodies of fresh water for fishing than any place in the world – four Great Lakes, 11,000 inland lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams.
- Michigan's public land includes nearly 4 million acres of state forests, 352,000 acres of state parks and 360,000 acres of state game areas.
- Contributing to the state's energy potential, Michigan has the greatest volume of natural gas storage capacity of any state in the nation – more than 1 trillion cubic feet.
- The DNR manages 6.4 million acres of state-owned mineral resources, including leasing mineral rights to optimize state revenues and to provide materials that meet citizen and industry needs. We work to ensure that companies using these mineral resources return land to acceptable use. The department also handles requests to unify mineral rights that have been severed from surface rights.

## Forestry and firefighting

- Michigan has nearly 4 million acres of world-class state forest land, taken care of under the standards set by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and the Forest Stewardship Council®.
- The forest products industry adds more than \$21 billion a year to Michigan's economy and supports more than 99,000 jobs. The industry makes up more than a third of manufacturing jobs in the Upper Peninsula and 5 percent of all manufacturing jobs statewide.
- The DNR plants, on average, 6 million tree seedlings a year on state-managed forest land – more than two for every tree harvested.
- The DNR responds to an annual average of nearly 450 wildfires on nearly 8,000 acres of both public and private lands, saving forests, grasslands and more than 2,100 structures including homes, cabins and businesses.



## Museums and cultural resources

- More than 440,000 people visit the Michigan History Center's 11 museums and historic sites, including the Michigan History Museum in Lansing and the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee. Roughly 80,000 schoolchildren annually take part in Michigan History Center programs on state heritage.
- The Archives of Michigan preserves the records of Michigan government, organizations and individuals. Around 6 million records – including photos and maps – are available online.
- In addition to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the MHC and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Michigan has 13 underwater preserves that protect its historic shipwrecks.
- One million people a year visit the Mackinac State Historic Parks family of living-history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac; more than 360,000 of those visitors buy tickets to enjoy the sites' programs and exhibits.
- Mackinac State Historic Parks hosts over 35,000 students on group visits, while also presenting more than 100 educational outreach programs in classrooms throughout the state, reaching thousands more students.

## Trails

- Earning its role as the Trails State, Michigan is home to more than 12,500 miles of designated state trails (some of which are multiuse trails), one of the largest interconnected systems in the country.
- These public trails provide plenty of social, economic and health benefits. They help anchor local communities and cater to a variety of interests, including biking, hiking, snowmobiling, ORV, paddling and horseback riding.
- With the help of many partners, the DNR oversees Michigan's Iron Belle Trail, extending along separate hiking and biking routes more than 2,000 miles from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula all the way to Belle Isle in Detroit.
- Many of Michigan's trail segments are built along old railway tracks, turning that unused corridor into multiuse pathways, typically for walking, cycling and sometimes horseback riding and snowmobiling. Michigan has over 2,600 miles of rail-trail – more than any other state.





## Grants

- The DNR oversees two dozen state and federal grant programs that provide critical support for outdoor recreation, aquatic and wildlife habitat development, forestry and firefighting efforts, and recreation safety.
- Each year, the DNR makes available up to \$55 million in grant funding opportunities to local units of government and nonprofit partners.
- The unique Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund invests revenue from oil, mineral and gas leases on state-managed public lands, with resulting earnings used to support natural resources conservation and outdoor recreation. Since 1976, the Trust Fund has awarded over \$1.1 billion for projects and acquisitions in every Michigan county.
- The Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, introduced in 2014, is vital to the state's commitment to prevent, control and eradicate invasive pests in our waters and on land. The program annually offers \$3.6 million in funding.

## Need more information?

Explore more about these topics on the DNR website at [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr).

Here are some helpful shortcuts:

**Boating** – [michigan.gov/boating](http://michigan.gov/boating)

**Education** – [michigan.gov/dnreducation](http://michigan.gov/dnreducation)

**Fishing** – [michigan.gov/fishing](http://michigan.gov/fishing)

**Forestry** – [michigan.gov/forestry](http://michigan.gov/forestry)

**Hunter education and recreational safety** – [michigan.gov/recreationsafety](http://michigan.gov/recreationsafety)

**Hunting** – [michigan.gov/hunting](http://michigan.gov/hunting)

**Law enforcement** – [michigan.gov/conservationofficers](http://michigan.gov/conservationofficers)

**Licensing** – [mdnr-elicense.com](http://mdnr-elicense.com)

**Mackinac State Historic Parks** – [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)

**Michigan History Center** – [michigan.gov/mhc](http://michigan.gov/mhc)

**Michigan Natural Resources Commission** – [michigan.gov/nrc](http://michigan.gov/nrc)

**Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** – [michigan.gov/mnrtrf](http://michigan.gov/mnrtrf)

**Minerals** – [michigan.gov/minerals](http://michigan.gov/minerals)

**Outdoor Adventure Center** – [michigan.gov/oac](http://michigan.gov/oac)

**Outdoor recreation industry** – [michigan.gov/mi-outdoorrec](http://michigan.gov/mi-outdoorrec)

**State parks and camping** – [michigan.gov/stateparks](http://michigan.gov/stateparks)

**Trails** – [michigan.gov/dnrtrails](http://michigan.gov/dnrtrails)

**Wildlife** – [michigan.gov/wildlife](http://michigan.gov/wildlife)

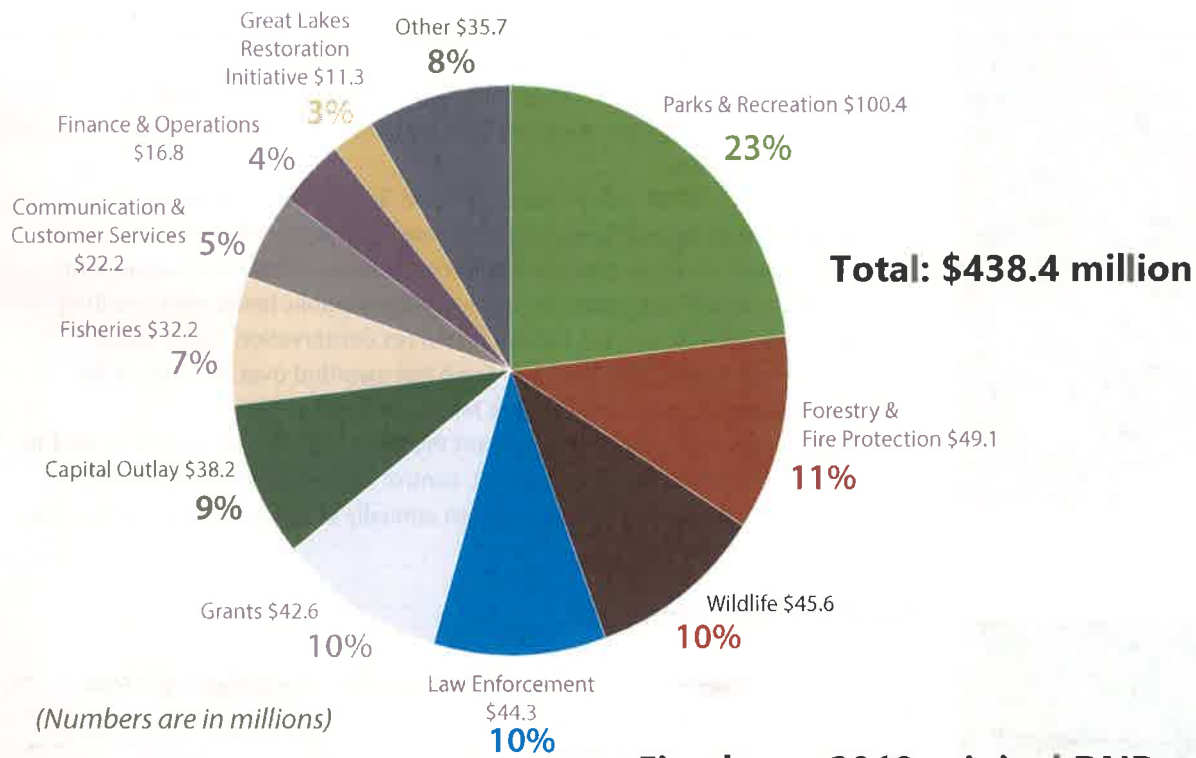


## Helping you tell Michigan's outdoor story

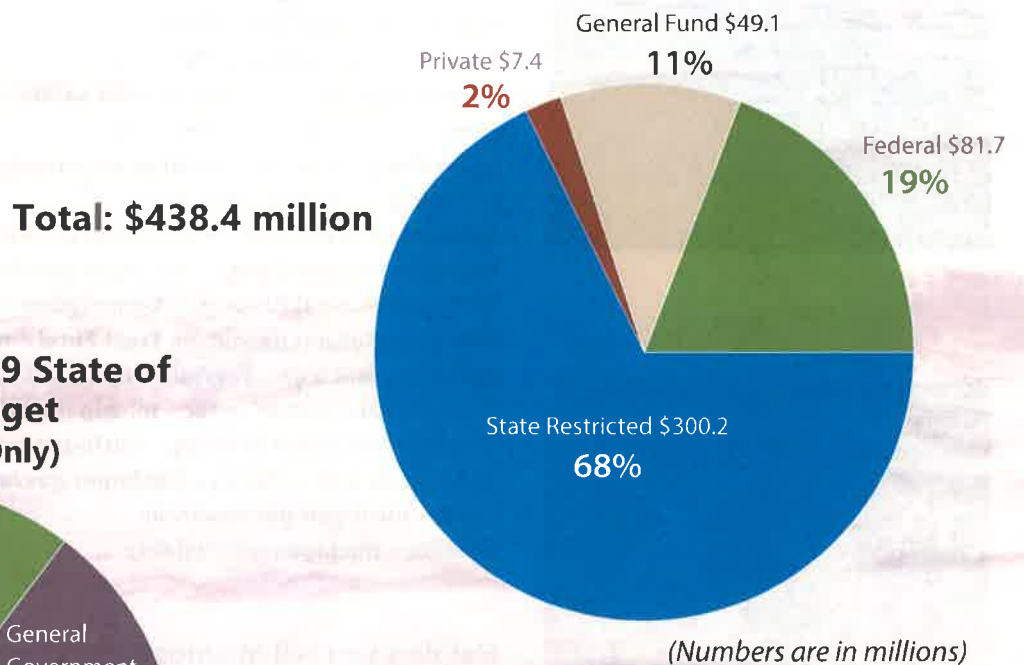
Additionally, we can help you tell your constituents more about the natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities available to them. Sign up to receive DNR email updates and choose the topics that most interest you. For assistance in creating brief articles or longer stories for your district newsletters or other communications, please contact the DNR Legislative and Legal Affairs Office at 517-284-6237.

**Thank you for your interest in and support of Michigan's world-class natural resources!**

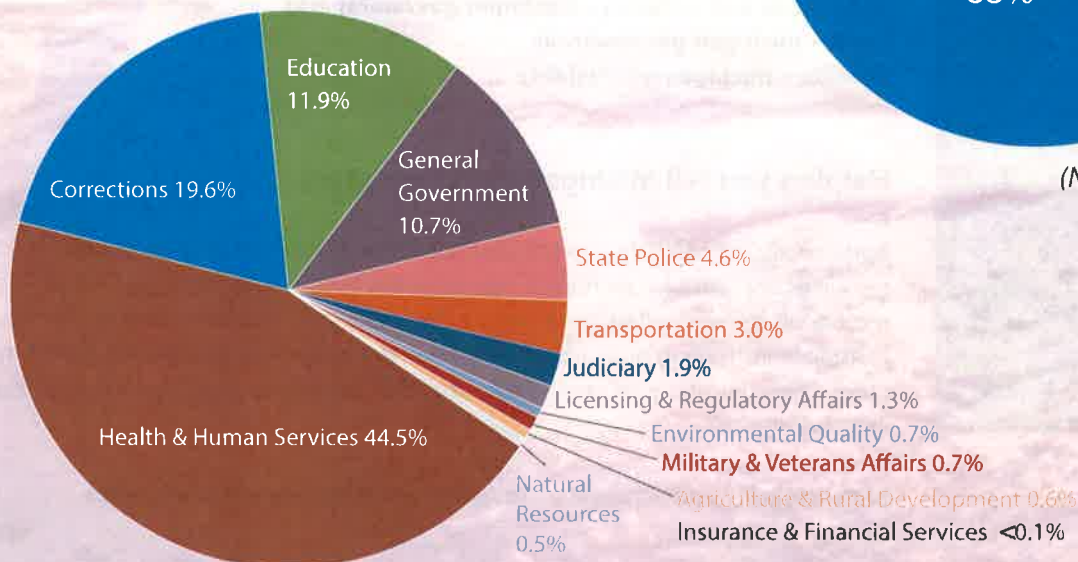
## Fiscal year 2019 original appropriations by DNR program



## Fiscal year 2019 original DNR appropriations



## Allocation of FY 2019 State of Michigan Budget (General Fund Only)





## Michigan Department of Natural Resources Organizational Chart

